

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, DC

ORDER NO. 4943

IN THE MATTER OF:

Served September 25, 1996

Investigation of Unauthorized )  
Operations of GREAT AMERICAN TOURS, )  
INC., and THE AIRPORT CONNECTION, )  
INC. II; and affiliation with )  
AIRPORT BAGGAGE CARRIERS, INC., )  
WMATC No. 150 )

Case No. MP-96-54

On July 2, 1996, the Commission received a certificate of insurance from TIB Transportation Insurance Brokers for "Airport Baggage Carriers, Inc., dba Airport Connection II, Inc., dba Great American Tours, Inc." According to the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation, Corporate Charter Division, Great American Tours, Inc., is an active Maryland corporation distinct from, but located at the same Lanham, MD, address as, Airport Baggage Carriers, Inc. The Corporate Charter Division shows The Airport Connection, Inc. II, as an active Maryland corporation located in Glen Burnie, MD.

Great American Tours, Inc., has never held authority from this Commission. Airport Connection II's, authority from this Commission was revoked May 21, 1991. Notwithstanding their lack of authority, Great American Tours and Airport Connection II currently hold themselves out to perform sightseeing and airport transfers in the metropolitan area through listings in the District of Columbia Yellow pages for the period May 1996 through April 1997.

On August 21, 1996, an application to transfer Certificate No. 150 to Great American Tours was returned as not acceptable for filing. No corrected application has been filed to date.

On September 10, 1996, the Commission received an informal complaint from Hospitality Tours Toronto Inc. The complaint alleges that Hospitality Tours is due a refund in connection with transportation performed on its behalf by Great American Tours/The Airport Connection II. The complaint is supported by an itinerary, purportedly on Great American Tours/The Airport Connection II letterhead, showing a pickup at National Airport in the morning, followed by transportation of passengers to a hotel and various other points in DC, plus an evening pickup at the hotel for a tour of DC by night. Although an informal complaint will not be docketed as a formal proceeding or made a part of the record in a formal proceeding, the Commission may, nevertheless, initiate an investigation under Commission Rule No. 9.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Commission Rule No. 11.



Under Title II of the Compact, Article XIII, Section 1(c), the Commission may investigate a carrier on its own motion to determine whether a carrier has violated the Compact, and Section 1(e) provides:

For the purpose of an investigation or other proceeding under this Act, the Commission may administer oaths and affirmations, subpoena witnesses, compel their attendance, take evidence, and require the production of books, papers, correspondence, memoranda, contracts, agreements, or other records or evidence which the Commission considers relevant to the inquiry.

We shall direct respondents to produce any and all records in their possession, custody or control relating to transportation of passengers for hire between points in the Metropolitan District during the period beginning September 1, 1995, and ending as of the date of this order.

In the meantime, Great American Tours and The Airport Connection II are admonished not to perform any transportation in the Metropolitan District which requires a certificate of authority from this Commission.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

1. That Great American Tours, Inc.; the Airport Connection, Inc. II; and Airport Baggage Carriers, Inc., are hereby named respondents.

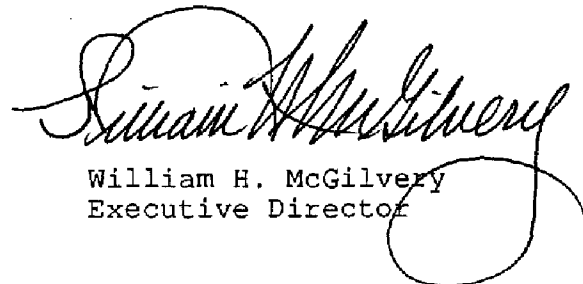
2. That Great American Tours, Inc., and The Airport Connection, Inc. II, are hereby directed to cease and desist from transporting passengers for hire between points in the Metropolitan District unless and until otherwise ordered by the Commission.

3. That an investigation of respondents' operations and affiliations in the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit District is hereby instituted under Article XIII, Section 1, of the Compact.

4. That respondents are hereby directed to produce any and all records in their possession, custody or control relating to transportation of passengers for hire between points in the Metropolitan District during the period beginning September 1, 1995, and ending as of the date of this order.

5. That each respondent is hereby directed to file a current list of officers, directors and shareholders.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSION; COMMISSIONERS ALEXANDER, LIGON, AND MILLER:

  
William H. McGilver  
Executive Director

